

## Abstract

A novel growth arrest homeobox gene has been discovered and the nucleotide sequences have been determined in both the rat and the human. The expression of the novel homeobox gene inhibits  
5 vascular smooth muscle cell growth. The growth arrest homeobox gene hereinafter referred to as the "Gax gene" and its corresponding proteins are useful in the study of vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation and in the treatment of blood vessel  
10 diseases that result from excessive smooth muscle cell proliferation, particularly after balloon angioplasty.

462/P/22311114.20A